



Sheridan Region

Regional Wildlife Supervisor:

Craig Smith

Regional Fisheries Supervisor:

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Office Managers:

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Clerical Specialists:

Wendy Balkenbush

Stephanie Bomar

Game Wardens:

Dayton: Dustin Shorma

Sheridan: Bruce Scigliano

Buffalo: Jim Seeman

Kaycee: Cody Bish

N. Gillette: Brooke Weaver

S. Gillette: Dustin Kirsch

Moorcroft: J.D. Davis

Investigator: Daniel Beach

Damage Tech: Cody Schoonover

Public Information Specialist:

Bud Stewart

Wildlife Biologists :

Wildlife Management Coordinator:

Lynn Jahnke

Sheridan: Tim Thomas

Buffalo: Dan Thiele

Gillette: Erika Peckham

Terrestrial Habitat: Todd Caltrider

PLPW Program :

Coordinator: Troy Tobiasson

Technician: Dan Thompson

Fish Biologists:

Bill Bradshaw

Andrew Nikirk

Aquatic Habitat: Travis Cundy

Habitat and Access Coordinator:

Seth Roseberry

Aquatic Invasive Species:

Mike Locatelli

Story Fish Hatchery:

Superintendent: Steve Diekema

Senior Fish Culturist: Brad Hughes

Culturist: Jennifer Meineke

Sheridan Bird Farm:

Supervisor: Darrell Meineke

Biologist: Nate Brown

Technician: Reed Moore

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Sheridan Region

October 2016 Newsletter

Not So Cooperative Bear



Black bear lodged between two limbs of a tree after being administered immobilization drugs.

Sheridan Wildlife Biologist Tim Thomas videos (photo at right) Rob Hium attaching a rope to the bear so it can lowered to the ground. (Barb Ransbottom photo)



In late September, a black bear that had been roaming around the Dayton area for some time was finally spotted climbing a tree where an immobilization dart could be safely used. Sheridan Wildlife Biologist Tim Thomas was able to administer immobilization drugs via a dart gun as the bear was climbing down the tree. When the dart hit the bear it immediately climbed back up the tree and promptly went to sleep in a fork of the tree about 30 feet above the ground. In order to get the bear down from the tree, Game and Fish personnel contacted Rob Hium, co-owner of Tongue River Communications in Dayton. Hium responded with a utility bucket truck to assist with removing the bear from the tree. Hium was able to attach a rope to the bear and successfully lower it to Game and Fish personnel on the ground. The bear was checked over and placed in a bear trap where it recovered from the immobilization drugs. The bear was relocated to the Bighorns Mountains the next day.



Rob Hium slowly lowers the immobilized bear to the ground.



Dayton Game Warden Dustin Shorma checks to see if the bear is breathing normally by putting his hand in front of the bear's nose.



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Native Fish Sampling on Little Powder River



Sheridan Region Fish Management Biologist Bill Bradshaw (second from left) helps four students identify fish sampled on the Little Powder River. (Matt Craig photo)

On a cool and rainy Saturday in September, Sheridan Region Fish Management Biologist Bill Bradshaw helped an aquatic biology class from the Gillette campus of Sheridan College sample fish on the Little Powder River north of Gillette. The class is taught by Matt Craig who brought four students to help with the sampling effort. Craig wants to set up a long term fish monitoring program so students that take the class in the future are exposed to fish sampling techniques, native fish species and aquatic ecology of the Little Powder River. The group sampled ten fish species, including sand shiners, longnose dace, white suckers, northern redhorse, green sunfish, plains killifish, channel catfish, stonecat, fathead minnows and carp.



Sand shiners (photo above) collected from the Little Powder River north of Gillette. (Matt Craig photo)

A typical reach of the Little Powder River (photo below) that was sampled by the aquatic biology class. (Matt Craig photo)





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Sheridan/Fort Mackenzie High School Biology Field Trip



Sheridan Wildlife Biologist Tim Thomas instructs students on how to do an elk pellet count and what the count can tell you about elk densities in an area.

Game and Fish employees from the Sheridan Region helped with the annual biology class field trip that Sheridan and Ft. Mackenzie High Schools have each fall. Students from the two high schools spend time at stations dealing with forest ecology and plant identification, insect collection, elk pellet count transects, food web and symbiosis analysis, aquatic macroinvertebrates, water chemistry, soil science, bird identification, invasive/native plant transects, animal tracks, and a stump habitat exercise. Students are also required to make journal entries, read about jobs that are biology related and pick a job they might like, as well as pick a quote from a naturalist and tell what that quote meant to them.

High school biology students on the Amsden Creek Wildlife Habitat Management Area trek from the forest ecology station towards the elk pellet count station.





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Lake DeSmet Walleye Doing Well



Sheridan Fish Management Biologist Andrew Nikirk displays one of the walleye captured during fall 2016 netting surveys.



An example of the excellent body condition of Lake DeSmet walleye is this 25.7 inch walleye that weighed 6.9 pounds.

Although most anglers find them difficult to catch, the walleye population in Lake DeSmet is stable and the fish are doing well. During the recent fall netting surveys completed by the Sheridan Fish Management Crew, 28 walleye were captured. The walleye had lengths that ranged from 11.4 to 26.7 inches and weights that ranged from 0.5 to 8.3 pounds. The walleye captured exhibited excellent body condition, especially the larger fish.

Big Game Animals Shot with Firearms During the Archery Season



Moorcroft Game Warden John Davis investigates the area north of Gillette where a 5X6 buck mule deer was shot with a firearm during the archery season.



Bull elk killed with a firearm west of Buffalo during the archery season.

Sheridan Region Game Wardens investigated two cases where big game animals had been shot with firearms during the archery season. Moorcroft Game Warden John Davis and North Gillette Game Warden Brooke Weaver investigated the site where a 5X6 mule deer buck was killed north of Gillette. Buffalo Game Warden Jim Seeman investigated a bull elk that was killed in late September west of Buffalo. No edible meat had been removed from the elk.

Anyone aware of a poaching incident can notify the Game and Fish Department by calling the Stop Poaching hotline at 1-877-WGFD-TIP (1-877-943-3847) or text the keyword WGFD with message to TIP411 (847-411).